

## ***THIS WEEK IN TEXAS HISTORY***

**September 2010 – Week 3**

**Air Date: September 12 – September 18 (Sunday – Saturday)**



### **TITLE: THE DAYTON**

SEPTEMBER 1845 AND AN ACCIDENT NEARLY CHANGES HISTORY.

THIS WEEK IN TEXAS HISTORY, BROUGHT TO YOU BY THIS STATION AND THE SAVE TEXAS HISTORY PROGRAM OF THE GENERAL LAND OFFICE.

SEPTEMBER 12, 1845. CORPUS CHRISTI BAY. WAR WITH MEXICO LOOMS AS U.S. TROOPS GATHER HERE UNDER THE COMMAND OF GENERAL ZACHARY TAYLOR.

ARRIVING BY THE HUNDREDS, SOLDIERS ARE FERRIED ACROSS THE BAY USING ANY BOAT AVAILABLE, INCLUDING A WORN OUT SIDEWHEEL STEAMER CALLED THE DAYTON.

TEN YEARS OLD, THE DAYTON IS A SORRY EXCUSE FOR A BOAT. HALFWAY ACROSS THE BAY, WITH A DECK FULL OF SOLDIERS, THE BOILERS EXPLODE . . . KILLING SEVEN INSTANTLY AND SCALDING MANY MORE.

ONE YOUNG LIEUTENANT NARROWLY AVOIDED THE INCIDENT. ULYSSES S. GRANT, ON HIS WAY TO THE MEXICAN WAR, HAD ARRIVED DAYS BEFORE. HE WOULD SURVIVE TO BECOME UNION GENERAL AND PRESIDENT.

THE STEAMSHIP DAYTON EXPLODED 165 YEARS AGO, THIS WEEK IN TEXAS HISTORY.

LEARN MORE AT SAVETEXASHISTORY.ORG OR CALL 800-998-4GLO.

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### **HANDBOOK OF TEXAS – DAYTON**

**<http://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/DD/etd3.html>**

TEXAS GENERAL LAND OFFICE

Save Texas History Program

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